

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7740

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01387

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, GR, TU

SUBJECT: SOME BRITISH VIEWS ON GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE
OVER THE AEGEAN

REF: LONDON 1158

1. IN COURSE OF GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH VISITING DEPARTMENT OFFICER EAGLETON JANUARY 28, FCO DEPARTMENT HEAD GOODISON ADDED SOMETHING NEW TO ACCOUNT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN US OF BRIMELOW CONVERSATION WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR ROUSSOS ON THE AEGEAN JANUARY 23 (REFTEL). HE SAID BRIMELOW POINTED TO HMG'S OWN PEACEFUL APPROACH TO SIMILAR DISPUTE WITH FRANCE OVER MEDIAN LINE IN CHANNEL, GIVEN PROXIMITY OF BRITISH CHANNEL ISLANDS TO FRENCH COAST. BRITISH AND FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO SUBMIT THEIR DISPUTE TO ARBITRATION (ALTHOUGH ICJ NOT ACCEPTABLE AND EXACT MECHANISM NOT YET SET UP).

2. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT, PARTLY TO MAKE THIS SUG-
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GESTION MORE PALATABLE, BRIMELOW WOULD HAVE ALSO INDI-

CATED TO GREEKS THAT BRITISH THINK THEIR LEGAL CASE MAY BE PRETTY SOLID, IN A SITUATION NOT DISSIMILAR TO THAT OF GREECE WITH ITS ISLANDS OFF THE COAST OF TURKEY. IN ANY CASE, GOODISON REITERATED FOR EAGLETON HIS CONVICTION THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE OF THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN THESE TWO CASES, A SIMILARITY WHICH ARGUES FOR CONSIDERABLE BRITISH AGREEMENT WITH GREEK LEGAL VIEW OF SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN.

3. EAGLETON COMMENTED THAT TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIAL HE HAD MET HINTED THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE WILLING TO TURN ISSUE OVER TO THE ICJ.

4. WE NOTE CARAMANLIS IS REPORTED IN PRESS TO HAVE OFFERED TURKEY ICJ REFERRAL OF AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE.

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Message Attributes

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